

Washington State Patrol Media Release

Chief Ronal W. Serpas



Captain Glenn Cramer
Government and Media Relations
(360) 753-5299 – office
(360) 753-5469 – fax
<http://www.wsp.wa.gov>

For Immediate Release
December 8, 2003
Contact: Lieutenant Mike DePalma
(360) 753-6890

WSP Releases Thanksgiving Weekend Activity Report

During the recent 2003 Thanksgiving holiday weekend, there were two fatalities on Washington highways investigated by the State Patrol. This is an 84% reduction from 2002, when there were twelve fatalities.

"Over Thanksgiving weekend, we arrested 618 drunk drivers statewide, removing that immediate threat off of our roadways," explained Chief Ronal W. Serpas. "We also gave out 4,253 speeding tickets, encouraging people to drive safely within the speed limit. We strongly believe enforcing our core mission (DUI, speeding, seat belts, and aggressive driving) helps to keep the fatal accidents down," he said, adding "The two top factors for fatal collisions in our state year to date are DUI (21%) and speeding (16%)."

In addition to enforcing the core mission, WSP troopers helped over 2,200 motorists in need of assistance on the side of the road through the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

| | <u>2002</u> | <u>2003</u> |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Number of Fatal Collisions | 10 | 2 |
| Number of Fatalities | 12 | 2 |
| Number of DUI Arrests | 466 | 618 |
| Number of Speed Citations | 5,221 | 4,253 |
| Number of Seat Belt Citations | 1,271 | 902 |
| Number of Seat Belt Warnings | 204 | 316 |
| Number of Alcohol-Related Collisions | 44 | 34 |
| Number of Motorist Assists | 2,269 | 2,283 |

###